

Arizona News Release

Issued by
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service,
Arizona Field Office
230 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Visit us at www.nass.usda.gov/az

CONTACT: Steven Manheimer, Director 602-280-8850 or nass-az@nass.usda.gov

Press Release Announcement - January 12, 2006 - For Immediate Release

NASS TO ASSESS FINANCIAL SITUATION OF U.S. FARMERS, RANCHERS AND DAIRYMEN

Phoenix, Arizona – How are agricultural producers surviving when fuel and other input costs continue to rise? Are government program payments providing producers an adequate safety? The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will give Arizona agricultural producers the chance to answer these and other questions by participating in the upcoming Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

The ARMS survey provides the leading economic indicators of state and national agriculture for producers, agribusinesses, and government. The results will show the impact of higher expenses, the shifting global markets, farmer production decisions and governmental policies on the agricultural economy.

"Reliable, accurate descriptions of the current economic health of Arizona's farms, ranches and dairies are crucial," said Steve Manheimer, Director of the NASS Arizona Field Office, "especially when policymakers, farm organizations, analysts, lenders and others make decisions that affect growers. This will be the last chance to provide an annual economic snapshot before the 2007 Farm Bill is finalized."

During 2004, the USDA distributed to producers \$13.3 billion in farm program payments, including \$2.3 billion in conservation funding. Forecast for 2005 is \$21.4 billion in farm payments with the increase due primarily to more counter-cyclical payments and emergency program payments. Data from the ARMS is used to measure the benefits of direct, counter-cyclical, and ad hoc emergency payments as producers continue to look to the marketplace for economic reward.

Producers chosen to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be visited by an interviewer during the January through March data-collection period. Results will be published in a series of USDA reports on the current farm financial situation. *Farm Production Expenditures*, the first report with results from the survey, will be released in August 2006.

-More-

For 2006, there is also a special emphasis on the dairy industry and a number of milk producers will be contacted to participate. Respond to USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey and let the financial facts be known for agriculture's policies and programs.

#